

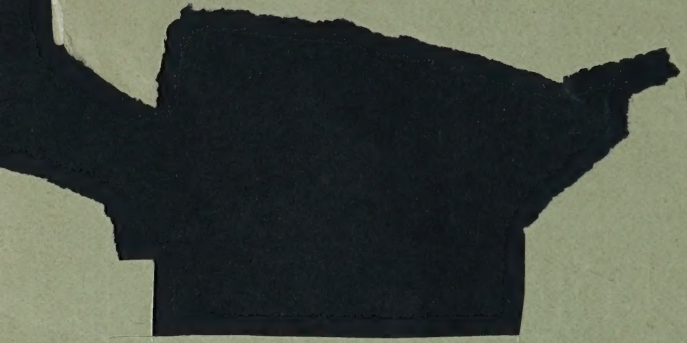
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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SELECTMEN, TREASURER,
AND
Sustaining School Com
Superint
TOWN OF

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
MARCH 1, 1884.

EXETER, N. H.:
WILLIAM B. MORRILL, PRINTER.
News-Letter Press.
1884.

University of New Hampshire
Library



ANNUAL REPORT
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TOWN OFFICERS.

MODERATOR,
GEORGE A. WIGGIN.

TOWN CLERK,
JOSEPH S. STAPLES.

SELECTMEN,
JAMES E. ODELL,
JAMES W. ROLLINS,
GEORGE W. CHASE.

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
RICHARD M. SCAMMON.

TREASURER,
JOSEPH S. STAPLES.

COLLECTOR,
GEORGE A. WIGGIN.

AUDITORS,
SAMUEL S. CHASE,
JOHN N. THOMPSON.

SUPERVISORS,
ALBERT C. LANE,
ALBERT A. BATCHELDER,
GEORGE H. ODELL.

COLLECTOR'S REPORT.

ACCOUNT OF COLLECTOR GEORGE A. WIGGIN.

Amount of taxes committed to him for
collection :

State, County, Town and School taxes,	\$4,778 87
School-house taxes,	690 30
Non-resident “	225 11
“ highway taxes,	24 09
Uncollected taxes of 1882,	319 00
	\$6,037 37

COLLECTOR WIGGIN'S DISCHARGE.

Paid non-resident highway taxes worked out,	\$21 77
Abatement of taxes,	10 93
Discount,	108 43
Treasurer in cash,	5,606 31
Collector's services,	75 00
Uncollected taxes of 1883,	214 93
	\$6,037 37

STRATHAM, Feb. 28, 1884.

This day examined the foregoing accounts of Collector George A. Wiggin, and find them fairly brought, rightly cast and well vouched.

JOHN N. THOMPSON, }
SAMUEL S. CHASE, } Auditors.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

REPORT OF TREASURER J. S. STAPLES.

Received of Treasurer, 1882,	\$1095 66
Collector Wiggin,	5606 31
Savings Bank tax,	751 46
State railroad tax,	256 02
Literary fund,	61 20
Albert C. Lane, for rent of hall,	28 00
Geo. W. Chase, for rent of hall,	24 00
Geo. W. Chase, for lots in cemetery,	20 00
Geo. W. Chase, for sale of plank and timber at Winni- cut bridge,	2 95
County Treasurer, expense of poor,	131 63
Bounty on crows,	3 50
	\$7,980 73

TREASURER STAPLES' DISCHARGE.

To money deposited with George E. Lane in 1882, not available, which the town voted to assume and discharge the treas- urer from all liability,	\$380 75
Paid Samuel S. Chase, abatement of taxes for the year 1880 and 1881,	48 05
Robert Norton, damage for defect in highway,	7 50
Wingate, printing town reports,	28 00
J. B. Wiggin, as committee to locate town house,	8 00

Paid O. B. French, as committee to locate town house,	4 50
A. C. Lane, bounty on crows,	40
G. A. Wiggin, abatement of taxes of heirs of John Murphy for 1881 and 1882,	5 00
John E. Young, for services as Supervisor, and cash paid for printing,	9 00
W. O. Junkins, record of births and deaths,	3 00
S. C. Dixon, for sheep killed by dogs,	20 00
Thomas Boardman, bounty on crows,	1 30
Thompson & Batchelder, for invoice books,	10 28
C. E. Parkman, bounty on crows,	40
Oscar M. Harris, bounty on crows,	40
Sarah W. Chase, on note,	15 00
J. W. Odell, return of births and deaths for 1881 and 1883,	2 75
County tax for 1883,	1719 62
G. W. Chase, stationery and distributing blanks, and money paid sundry persons for bounty on crows,	8 50
H. H. Leavitt, for repairing gate at cemetery,	65
H. H. Leavitt, bounty on crows,	20
Thomas Boardman, " "	30
State tax for 1883,	1,364 00
Thompson & Batchelder, invoice book,	8 00
N. E. Norton, watering trough,	3 00
A. C. Lane, services as Janitor,	12 75
" " kerosine oil for town hall,	1 92

Paid Thomas Morris, abatement dog tax,	1 00
J. H. Frink, services in the matter of D. C. Jewell on account of bridge,	15 00
J. E. Odell, services as Selectman and money paid out,	58 85
R. M. Scammon, to services as School Committee, to books, sta- tionery and postage,	26 38
J. W. Rollins, services as Selectman,	41 50
“ “ “ after crediting 1883,	4 00
J. W. Rollins, money paid for ten crows,	1 00
George W. Chase, services as Select- man,	40 00
George W. Chase, for cutting off limbs of trees and clearing the same,	2 00
George W. Chase, Selectmen expen- ses,	2 00
J. S. Staples, services as Treasurer and paying State and County tax,	31 00
J. S. Staples, services as Town Clerk,	20 00
J. S. Staples, for kerosine oil, chim- neys, wicks and broom for town hall,	1 33
L. G. Otis, abatement of taxes for '82 and '83,	2 50
Samuel S. Chase, services as Audi- tor,	3 00
John N. Thompson, services as Au- ditor,	3 00

\$3,915 83

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Paid George W. Parkman, for breaking roads,	\$3 30
S. S. Chase, for breaking roads,	1 50
Emmons Chase, services as Surveyor over tax,	2 55
E. B. Chase, for breaking roads,	5 55
O. B. French, " "	6 60
David Jewell, Jr., " "	1 88
J. W. Marsh, " "	11 00
A. M. Sanderson, " "	14 18
F. S. Smith, " "	4 25
Harry V. Smith, " "	3 00
S. S. Chase, for labor and lumber on sawmill bridge,	5 47
W. F. Sanderson, work on highway,	4 05
B. W. Dow, for gravel and work on road,	6 00
B. H. Moulton, work on repairing bridge,	4 55
B. S. Jenness, in breaking roads in 1883, and non-resident tax worked out,	13 17
C. N. Healey, shoveling snow on the road,	2 10

 \$89 15

TOWN AND COUNTY POOR.

Paid J. S. Staples, for supplies for Mrs.	
L. W. Mason,	\$28 83
Mrs. L. W. Mason,	29 00
Sarah Philpot,	78 00
J. S. Staples, for supplies for Stephen Philpot,	14 74
J. W. Rollins, for family of Perley Smith,	2 50

Paid B. H. Moulton, for expense in burial of Rose Mason,	20 00
Mrs. Annie M. Leavitt, in part for services rendered and expenses at her house in taking care of Charles Kelley in his last sickness,	155 00
J. S. Staples, for supplies for John Rundlett,	9 39
W. O. Junkins, for removing cancer from the lip of John Rundlett, with ten visits,	10 00
George H. Leavitt, for assisting in taking care of Mary A. Saunders,	6 00
A. C. Wiggin, for services rendered at the house of Stephen Scammon on account of the death of Mary A. Saunders,	6 00
George W. Chase, expenses to Con- cord on pauper case,	5 46
South Newmarket, for expenses in- cured in the case of George O. Wiggin,	105 40
	\$470 32

SCHOOLS.

Paid district No. 1,	\$260 00
“ “ 2,	375 53
“ “ 3,	220 00
“ “ 4,	252 32
	\$1,107 85
Paid school district No. 1 committee, for building purposes,	\$600 00
District note against the town,	454 69
	\$1,054 69

SELECTMEN'S BILLS.

TOWN OF STRATHAM TO J. E. ODELL, DR.,

For services as Selectmen and for money paid out.
1883.

March	2 and 3, to preparing accounts for the press and delivering them,	\$3 00
	12 and 14, to examining records and making writings in pauper case,	3 00
	17, to town business, (in session)	1 50
	26, attending jury meeting,	50
	27, to town business, attending to the wants of the poor,	1 50
	28, to notifying Commissioners, case of a pauper,	2 00
Apr.	2, 3, 4 and 6, to taking inventory,	6 00
	“ “ to expenses,	2 00
	9, to town business, half a day,	75
	13 and 14, receiving inventories, (in session)	3 00
May	4, to assessment one day,	1 50
	16 and 17, to assessment,	2 25
	18, to pauper case,	1 50
	28, to making appointments, etc.,	1 50
	29, to making and distributing sur- veyors' books,	1 00
	to repairing and delivering collec- tor's book,	2 50
Oct.	1, to Exeter in case of pauper, .75, jury meetings, .50,	1 25
	25 and 26, to examining records, and to Portsmouth in case of Geo. O. Wiggin, pauper,	2 75

Oct.	27, to South Newmarket and County Farm with G. O. Wiggin,	3 50
	28, to revising jury box,	50
1884.		
Jan.	5, to making preparation to remove Wiggin to Concord,	1 50
	7, to Concord with Wiggin, \$1.50, expenses paid, \$6.10,	7 60
	3, to Exeter to settle county bills,	1 00
Feb.	1 and 2, to hall 1-2 day, .75, to So. Newmarket and Exeter to settle bills, \$1.50,	2 25
	14 and 19, to session 1-2 day, .75, and to Portsmouth to settle bill, \$2.00,	2 75
	23 and 28, to making warrants, settling accounts, auditing, etc.,	2 25
		\$58 85

Received payment,

J. E. ODELL.

TOWN OF STRATHAM TO JAMES W. ROLLINS, DR.

1883.

March	17, to one day at Selectmen's room,	\$1 50
	19, to distributing inventory blanks,	2 00
	26, to session at Town Clerk's,	75
April	13 and 14, to two sessions at Selectmen's room,	3 00
	24, to half day on town business,	75
May	4, to making assessment,	1 50
	15 and 17, to making assessment,	3 00
	18, to one day on town business,	1 50
	21 and 22, to preparing inventory and making return to Secretary of State,	2 00

May	24, to going to North Hampton and Exeter,	1 00
	26, to one day on town business, to making town and school house taxes,	1 50 12 00
	30 and June 1, to preparing and distributing Surveyor's books,	2 00
June	2, to writing appointments of surveyors of highways, and wood and lumber, and making return,	1 50
Oct.	1, to attending jury meeting,	50
Dec.	28, to session at Selectmen's room,	1 00
1884.		
Jan.	8, to half day on town business,	75
	31, to session at Selectmen's room,	1 00
Feb.	14, " " "	1 00
	23, " " "	1 00
	26, to half day at Exeter,	75
	28, to settling and auditing accounts,	1 50

\$41 50

Received payment,

JAMES W. ROLLINS.

TOWN OF STRATHAM TO G. W. CHASE, DR.

March	13 and 14, in session,	\$3 00
	14, in the evening to Winnicut Mills to post notice,	75
	17, one day in session,	1 50
	20, to Winnicut to sell plank and timber,	75
	26, attending jury meeting,	50
	28, going to Exeter,	1 00
April	3, writing and posting notice,	50
	3, 4, 6 and 7, taking inventory,	8 00

May	8 and 15, making assessment,	3 00
	11, making return of births and deaths,	1 00
	12, making enrollment,	1 00
	16, making assessment,	1 50
	18, one day, case town poor,	1 50
	31, one day in session,	1 50
June	1, qualifying surveyors and distributing books,	2 50
	4, on town business,	1 00
	9, making return of surveyors to Town Clerk,	50
Sept.	21, on town business,	75
Oct.	1, jury meeting,	50
	30, to Capt. Odell's,	50
Dec.	12, to cemetery and making out deed,	50
	13, to Capt. Odell's,	50
	28, one-half day in session,	75
	29, filling vacancy of surveyor,	50
Jan.	26, to Capt. Odell's,	50
Feb.	1, one-half day in session,	75
	5, writing and posting notice,	50
	14, one-half day in session,	75
	18, writing and posting notice,	50
	23, one-half day in session,	75
	“ to Post Office, in evening, to post Warrant,	50
	27, going to Exeter,	75
	28, auditing,	1 50

\$40 00

Feb. 28, 1884, received payment,

G. W. CHASE.

 RECAPITULATION.

Cash received by the Treasurer,	\$7,980 73
Paid outstanding demands and sundry ex-	
penses,	3915 83
Highways and bridges,	89 15
Town and County poor,	470 32
Schools,	1107 85
Schoolhouse in District No. 1,	1054 69
Cash on hand,	1342 89
	\$7,980 73

 STRATHAM, Feb. 28, 1884.

This day examined the foregoing accounts of the Treasurer, and find them fairly brought, rightly cast and well vouched, and a balance in his hands of thirteen hundred and forty-two dollars and eighty-nine cents. (1,342.89.)

JOHN N. THOMPSON, }
 SAMUEL S. CHASE, } Auditors.

STATEMENT OF TOWN DEBT, FEB. 28, 1884.

A part of the school money with sundry other unpaid bills (estimated),	\$475 00
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MEANS OF PAYMENT.

Cash in Treasurer's hands,	\$1,342 89
Uncollected taxes,	214 93
	\$1,557 82
Balance in favor of the town,	\$1,082 82

REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1884.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

J. T. SMART, Prudential Committee.

Bertha J. Hobbs, teacher for the year. Miss Hobbs has taught one year previously in town. She takes a live interest in her work, is ambitious to excel and guides her charge with a firm hand. The method of instruction was quite good, and excellent order and interest were manifest at all times. The school contains many diligent workers, and though at first they were given to mixing much needless deliberation with their recitations, this matter was soon remedied, and there was no subsequent lack of animation. The present term has some weeks to continue, and the statistics are necessarily incomplete.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

D. L. LITTLEFIELD, Prudential Committee.

Spring term taught by Emma Blodgett. This teacher has been connected with our schools much of the time for the past ten years, and has an established reputation, making it needless to say the school in her charge had no superior either for

system, discipline or progress. She closed her connection with the school at the end of the spring term, much to the regret of both scholars and parents.

Fall and winter terms. Abby P. Brown, of Rye, teacher. Miss Brown was a graduate of one of our best Normal schools, and passed a fine examination. She was, however, without experience, and undertook the school when a high order of skill and experience was needed to sustain its standard. Some progress was made, but there was an evident lack of harmonious feeling that was fatal to the most rapid advancement. We are pleased to say, however, that a decided improvement was noticed in the appearance of the school toward the close.

A teacher is needed who will command respect, and one who is qualified to teach the higher branches, for which many of the scholars are ready and should commence.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

DAVID JEWELL, JR., Prudential Committee.

M. Effie Furber, teacher of the spring and fall terms. Miss Furber exerted herself to the utmost to gain the good will of her school, and with a high degree of success. She has a happy faculty for dispelling the tedium of school hours, especially to the younger ones, who usually feel the confinement to be irksome. Had an equal share of attention been given to discipline and instruction the result would have been that perfect success which the scholars of this school can achieve, and for which they are so willing to work. Success demands a talent for persistent drill with a serious purpose and live personal interest in the various branches of study. The winter term was in charge of Edna A. Hobbs, who possessed these qualifications in a full degree. Her teaching was remarkable at every step for its conscientious thoroughness. No effort was spared that would perfect either discipline or instruction, and the natural result was seen in the excellent deportment of the school and the readiness

and accuracy that marked the recitations. A faithful, hard-working teacher. A class of two in this school needs but one more term of study to be qualified for admittance to the Scientific Department of either Dartmouth or Harvard College. Except in one branch they are already prepared. This will somewhat illustrate the scope of study in our schools, and still more shows what may be accomplished in them.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

BENJAMIN WIGGIN, Prudential Committee.

Spring term was commenced by Alta M. Wiggin, a teacher of some experience, who came well recommended, but ill-health compelled her to resign at the end of the fourth week.

Mary R. French, of Exeter, was secured to teach the remaining five weeks, and proved an active, efficient teacher. All classes made good progress.

Charlotte A. Churchill, teacher of the fall and winter terms, has had the advantage of several years' experience, and the ease with which she discharged her duties showed the benefit of it. Her government cannot be called strict, and no effort was made for parade, but good order prevailed and hard work was done. Especial improvement was made by the classes in Arithmetic. More blackboards are needed in the school-room.

No especial change of text books has been made, but some of the scholars need to be provided books of the authorized series. Needless varieties of written arithmetics are in use, as many as four being found in one school. The series regularly adopted for use may be found in the list of text books, and all should be provided with them.

Throughout the year the pupils in our schools have shown a quick and intelligent interest in everything pertaining to their studies. The result could not fail to be gratifying, and especially so whenever they have had the advantage of able

instructors. In such schools it is a pleasure to note the rapid gain in text book knowledge, and also the attention to the multitude of minor matters essential to the ideal school—the tidy school-room, the lessons promptly and distinctly recited in faultless English, the courteous deportment of the scholars both during school hours and intermissions, the considerate treatment of the smaller ones by those larger and stronger. A visit to such a school cannot fail to give lasting satisfaction.

Teaching is an art that progresses with the times, and was never more so than at present. Improved methods and additional requirements are continually coming in vogue. With the increase of intelligence and general culture in the community, more and more has been, is and will be required of the schools that educate the members of that community. The teacher who instructs in text books only but half fulfills a teacher's mission. General culture, morals and manners demand equal care. Physical culture is not yet fully appreciated, but the time is coming when scientific instruction in this branch will be called for, and it will receive its due share of attention. The past ten years have seen a highly satisfactory increase in the value and efficiency of our schools. Some examination of those of other towns convinces us that ours, to say the least, will not suffer by comparison. Constant vigilance on the part of parents, committees and all interested is needed to maintain and elevate their standard. Careless, inefficient instructors are evidently the bane of the common school. This matter has been annually referred to by committees, but still exists, and must continue to exist till some more careful and systematic method of selection is devised. Few country towns in the State expend more money per school than does our own. Teachers find them desirable situations, and it is for us to see that we have as good an article as we pay for. The market is full of school-hunters, but there are few really first-class teachers among them; such are themselves early sought and their services secured,

We would suggest the advantage of placing our district agents earlier in the field that they may have ample opportunity to make their selections before the commencement of the school year. Our Prudential Committees are by no means wanting in public spirit or earnest desire to perform their duties in the best possible manner, and we believe much good would result if they were selected in such season that they might weigh more carefully the relative qualifications of the different candidates, and with such as were teaching would be enabled to see and determine how they acquitted themselves in the school-room. An agent who uses due care, and selects only the best to be found, is a public benefactor and deserves the thanks of the community as such.

An effort has been made to secure compliance with the law requiring a certain amount of attendance by children between specified ages. There has however been one or two instances of partial failure to comply: The law mentioned is not excessive in its requirements, and public opinion should demand more strongly that its provisions be fulfilled. No child should be so neglected as to grow up illiterate in the midst of our schools. For more effectual action in this matter the town may find it advisable to adopt regulations similar to those already in force in many of the larger places in this state.

Written examinations were required at the end of the first and third terms of all classes sufficiently advanced to profit by them. This is a new feature in our schools, though one that has long been used in the best educational systems. Teachers were led to require more written work of which there was need. Excellent practice was afforded the different classes and valuable data obtained, showing the nature and amount of instruction received. The average percentage of correct answers at the spring examination was seventy-eight. The winter examinations were more difficult, but the percentage was a fraction higher, and marked improve-

ment was shown in the general execution of the papers.

I have been requested to call attention to the law coming into effect on the first of April, authorizing towns to furnish the books used in their schools, and which is rightfully entitled, an act to promote education. The adoption of this plan carries with it many advantages—it would secure perfect uniformity in the books used; by purchasing in quantities and using the same books in successive classes, thirty and perhaps fifty per cent. of the aggregate expense would be saved. The general adoption of the provisions of this act would render our school system free in fact, as it has long been in name, and would operate to the disadvantage of none—book manufacturers and retailers excepted.

Respectfully submitted,

R. M. SCAMMON.

STATISTICAL REPORT.

DISTRICT.....	1	2	3	4	Total.
No. of weeks in spring term.....	8	9	8	9	34
“ “ fall “.....	..	11	10	8	29
“ “ winter “.....	15	12	12	10	49
Average attendance in spring.....	19	19	25	19	82
“ “ fall.....	..	17	20	18	55
“ “ winter.....	27	14	25	17	85
Wages of female teachers per month in summer	35	40	32	30	..
“ “ “ “ “ winter.	40	44	40	34	..
Percentage of daily attendance for year.....	92	94	93	85	av. 91
Whole No. of scholars in spring.....	22	19	28	24	93
“ “ “ fall.....	..	20	24	24	68
“ “ “ winter.....	28	17	30	24	99
Whole No. of different scholars during year....	33	26	40	30	129
Visits by Superintending Committee.	4	8	9	7	28
“ Prudential “.....	..	..	6	..	6
“ citizens and others.....	45	67	123	58	293
No. scholars in Reading.....	33	26	40	30	129
“ “ Spelling.....	33	26	40	30	129
“ “ Penmanship.....	28	26	30	19	103
“ “ Arithmetic.....	30	26	23	20	99
“ “ Geography.....	29	20	14	18	81
“ “ Grammar.....	12	16	15	6	49
“ “ Composition.....	14	13	17	8	52
“ “ History.....	6	13	5	8	32
“ “ Algebra.....	3	4	8	2	17
“ “ Physiology.....	2	11	8	..	21
“ “ Physical Geography.....	..	..	2	..	2
“ “ Vocal Music.....	..	26	28	..	54
“ “ Drawing.....	..	16	..	..	16
“ “ Rhetoric.....	..	2	..	..	2
“ “ Geometry.....	..	1	..	..	1
“ “ Philosophy.....	..	2	2	..	4
“ “ Astronomy.....	..	3	..	..	3
“ “ Book-keeping.....	3	..	..	..	3

Income from literary fund,	\$61 24
School money raised by town,	1193 50
Whole amount of school money,	1254 74
District No. 1,	350 85
" " 2,	375 53
" " 3,	276 04
" " 4,	252 32

Text-books used.—Franklin's Reader, Greenleaf's Arithmetic, Monteith's Geography, Barnes' History, Worcester's Speller, Robinson's Algebra, Well's Shorter Course in Grammar, Hart's Rhetoric, Olney's Geometry, Lockyer's Astronomy, Guyots Physical Geography, Rolf and Gellet's Philosophy, Hutchinson's Physiology.

ROLL OF HONOR.

Names of pupils not absent or tardy for one term :

District No. 1. *Mary E. Dean, Annie H. Parkman, Sadie P. Peabody, Fred. E. Otis*, Myra N. Rundlett, Ella B. Dean, Nellie E. Parkman, George H. Bowley, Frank H. Brewster, Charles E. Parkman, Willard G. Parkman, Charles E. Fifield, Frank L. Tuttle, Sydney O. Tuttle.

District No. 2. *Mary L. Hanley, Josie S. Roby, Mortie B. Hanley, James D. Littlefield, John S. Piper, Fred. H. Robiunson*, Alma D. Hanley, Annie I. Hanley, Ada M. Norton, Annie P. Wiggin, James True Roby.

District No. 3. FRANK H. BARKER, HENRY L. JEWELL, *Mollie F. Barker, Belle M. French, Mary I. Gowen, Hattie L. Jewell, Viola I. Jewell*, Effie Chapman, Helen P. Gowen, Florence Hanscom, Sadie B. Jewell Vesta Jewell, Hattie Wiggin, Katie McDonell, Ralph Barker, John Cregg, John O. Wiggin.

District No. 4. *Gertie S. Johnson, Annie L. Johnson*, Florence E. Rollins, Louise A. Wiggin, Charles Johnson, George L. Thompson.

Those in italics not absent for two terms ; those in capitals not absent for three terms.

